

Message Text

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FOR EUR/CE - BRUCE FLATIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, AU

SUBJECT: FORD-KREISKY MEETING IN SALZBURG: ISSUES PAPER -
MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REF: VIENNA 9025

1. REASONS FOR AUSTRIAN CONCERN OVER MIDDLE EAST SITUATION
REMAIN AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, AND GOA CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN
WHAT IT CONSIDERS BALANCED PUBLIC ATTITUDE ON ARAB-ISRAELI
DISPUTE AS STATED IN DEPARTMENT'S BRIEFING PAPER FOR
CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER 1974. IN
MEANTIME, HOWEVER, KREISKY HAS COMPLETED SECOND FACT-FINDING
MISSION TO ARAB STATES ON BEHALF OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL,
HAVING VISITED MOROCCO, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, AND LIBYA EARLY THIS
YEAR TO PROMOTE TALKS BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND ARAB SOCIALIST
PARTIES. IN DOING SO, KREISKY HOPES TO BRING ARAB AND
ISRAELI SOCIALISTS PARTIES INTO DIRECT BUT UNOFFICIAL CONTACT.
IN WAKE OF RESULTS OF SECRETARY'S MOST RECENT MISSION TO
MIDDLE EAST, KREISKY VOICED STRONG SUPPORT FOR US EFFORT
IN MIDDLE EAST, AND FOR SECRETARY PERSONALLY, IN REMARKS
IN NEW YORK IN APRIL. ON MAY 10, KREISKY VIRTUALLY ACCUSED
ISRAEL OF FOILING PROPOSED ARAB-ISRAELI SOCIALIST TALKS
AS A RESULT OF PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENT BY ISRAELI
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FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON ON MAY 8 THAT SUCH TALKS WOULD

OCCUR. EPISODE GAVE IMPETUS TO DEVELOPING AUSTRIAN VIEW THAT ISRAELI TACTICS ARE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT ON STEP-BY-STEP BASIS SOUGHT BY US.

2. AUSTRIAN CONCERN ABOUT ISRAELI TACTICS COINCIDES WITH APPARENT EROSION OF OFFICIAL AUSTRIAN SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL AND ATTENDANT PERCEIVED NEED NOT TO ANTOGONIZE ARABS UNNECESSARILY, AND TO MOLLIFY THEM WHERE POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE AUSTRIAN INTEREST IN SECURING UN RECOGNITION OF VIENNA AS THIRD UN CITY, CONSUMER-PRODUCER COOPERATION ON ENERGY QUESTIONS, AND REELECTION OF FORMER AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WALDHEIM AS UN SYG. ANOTHER FACET OF AUSTRIAN-ARAB RELATIONSHIP IS KREISKY'S PROPENSITY TO SPEAK IN POSITIVE TERMS ABOUT PLO. HIS MOST RECENT COMMENTS ON SUBJECT SUGGEST GOA MAY BE CONSIDERING ALLOWING PLO TO OPEN OFFICE IN VIENNA.

3. IN VIEW BOTH OF KREISKY'S SOUNDINGS ON HIS TWO FACT-FINDING MISSIONS AS WELL AS HIS UNDERSTANDING OF PSYCHOLOGY OF ISRAELI POSITION, PRESIDENT FORD MAY WISH TO SOLICIT KREISKY'S VIEWS ABOUT MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION AND POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO SETTLEMENT THERE. REGARDLESS OF EXTENT TO WHICH THOSE VIEWS MAY BE FOUND USEFUL, ATTENTION TO THEM WOULD GREATLY PROMOTE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHANCELLOR. BUCHANAN

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